

## Lead Me to Calvary

*“And when they were come to the place which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.” Luke 23:33*

**Calvary** is a very dear word to the Christian. Calvary is where Jesus died for our sins; where He shed His atoning blood; where He demonstrated His amazing love for us. Calvary, like the cross, is what we believers glory in (Galatians 6:14).

The word Calvary is the Latin form of the Hebrew word Golgotha, which means *“the place of a skull”* (John 19:17). Calvary has become a standard English word: John Wycliffe used it in the first English Bible in 1380.

The cross - a cruel instrument of death, and Calvary - the bleak place of death, are wonderful things for the blood-washed believer. So wonderful that many of the themes of our favorite hymns are about Calvary: “At Calvary,” “Lead Me to Calvary,” and “Calvary Covers it All,” to name a few. Calvary is also chosen as a name for many churches and ministries such as “Calvary Baptist Church.”

Did you know that “Calvary” is only found **one time** in the Bible? It’s Luke 23:33. We base a lot of things on this one verse. Did you know that “Calvary” is not found in any of the modern English versions? The NIV, NASB, TEV, RSV, NEB, LB, and others read “the skull” instead of Calvary. Only the New King James Version retains ‘Calvary’. I suppose any church named after Calvary that has forsaken the King James Bible for a modern version, ought to be consistent with their Bible - their only rule of faith and practice - and rename their church. How does “The Skull Baptist Church” sound? It would probably be a hit with the punk rockers!

The more I study my King James Bible, the more convinced I am that it is God’s preserved word in English. Those that have forsaken this blessed Bible ought to sing, “Lead me **back** to Calvary, lest I forget your word for me.”

*Pastor Dave Harness Sr.*